(b) if so, whether Government is implementing any effective action plan to fulfil basic necessities such as education, health and self-employment of the poor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below the poverty line from the large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The comparable estimates of number of people living below poverty line available since 1973-74 are given below:

	Number of Poor (million)
1973-74	321.3
1977-78	328.9
1983	322.9
1987-88	307.1
1993-94	320.3
1999-2000	260.2
2004-05 (URP)	301.7
2004-05 (MRP)	238.5

N.B.: URP = Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30 day recall period.

MRP = Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period.

The poverty estimates of 1993-94 are comparable with the poverty estimates of 2004-05 based on URP consumption.

The poverty estimates of 2004-05 estimated from MRP consumption distribution are roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000.

The number of people living below the poverty line declined from 321.3 million in 1973-74 to 301.7 million in 2004-05.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Withdrawal of subsidies on items

1881. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government subsidies a number of items, including food-grains, fertilizers and petroleum products for the end users;

(b) if so, the details with amount spent on subsidies alone during the last three years;

(c) whether Government is considering to stop subsidizing all items, including food-grains distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS), fertilizers issued to the faremrs and LPG cylinders supplied to domestic users;

(d) whether doing away with subsidy on the above items would further spurt inflation rate; and

(e) if so, the details and Centre's response thereto, particularly with regard to low income group, BPL families and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given below:

Subsidy Released

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Items	Year		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Foodgrains	25746.45	23071.00	23827.59
2.	Fertilizers	15779.00	18299.00	25952.00
3.	PDS Kerosene	1146.67	1057.22	969.67
4.	Dmomestic LPG	1783.64	1604.77	1554.09

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In case subsidies are abolished, it is likely that inflation rate will rise. However, the inflation rate is determined by a variety of factors, including monetary factors, supply-demand situation, etc.

(e) At present, there is no proposal to abolish subsidies and, accordingly, the interest of low income group/BPL families and marginal farmers will be protected.

Release of balance funds for Rajasthan

1882. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Engineer (NH) has requested Secretary RTH, New Delhi for release of balance fund *vide* Letter No. 393 dated 17th February, 2005 and No. 408 dated 2nd March, 2005 and Hon'ble Minister of Public Works of State Government of Rajasthan has also written to him *vide* D.O. Letter No. 419 dated 10th March, 2005 and No. 1122 dated 24th August, 2006 for release from the last years' balance accrual amount of Rs. 77.01 crore; and